

State Representative
Doug Ericksen

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600



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AGRICULTURE UPDATE & SURVEY

Dear friends and neighbors,

Agriculture is Washington's second largest industry and a vital part of our state's economic well-being. Sustaining this important industry is critical to the health of our local and state economy.

Local family farmers have staunchly protected and nurtured their land and its surrounding environment for generations. Their commitment to the environment has strengthened Whatcom County's quality of life.

During the 2001 legislative session, we adopted a three-part, \$7.7 million tax relief package to assist struggling Washington farmers. Although I am proud of what we accomplished last session, there was much left undone. We must continue to find ways to assist family farmers for Washington agricultural products to become competitive in the global market again.

I am unwavering in my commitment to sponsor and support legislation to provide family farmers with the tools they need to maintain a thriving business.

I share our local farmers' commitment to protecting the environment. It goes without saying that a healthy environment and our exceptional quality of life depend on the commitment of each and every citizen.

The bottom line is this: sustaining family farms and protecting the quality of life we value are inseparable issues - they go hand in hand.

Please take a few minutes to share your views on agriculture and the environment by completing and returning the attached survey.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Ericksen". The signature is stylized with a large "D" and a cursive "Ericksen".

Doug Ericksen
State Representative, 42nd District

AGRICULTURE UPDATE & SURVEY

1. In your opinion, what is the biggest threat to the agriculture industry?

2. What is the biggest threat to our environment?

3. What could the Legislature do to better address these "threats"?

4. Please rank the following issues in order of their importance, 5 being the lowest priority, and 1 being the highest priority.
 - () Making changes to our state's water laws
 - () Agriculture buffers - creating a fair and equitable system to ensure farmers' rights aren't sacrificed in the name of salmon restoration
 - () Amending state ergonomic regulations
 - () Enacting tax exemptions for farmers
 - () Amending the Growth Management Act to provide landowners flexibility during times of economic distress

5. Please share any additional comments you may have on these or other issues important to you.

() Please check here if I may contact you with follow-up questions.

Phone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

|||||
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